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Identical letters dated 30 November 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following urgent information:

On 30 November 2018, aircraft of the illegitimate United States-led "international coalition" continued with their vicious crimes against innocent Syrian civilians when the coalition perpetrated a fresh massacre in the village of Sha'fah in the Dayr al-Zawr countryside, in the course of which it bombed residential homes and civilian properties. More than 30 civilians were killed, most of them women and children. The death toll is likely to rise given the extent of the devastation left in wake of this attack, as the townspeople whose homes and property were destroyed continue to search for the bodies of relatives in the rubble.

We have sent dozens of letters to the Security Council about these ongoing crimes, which are a clear sign of the low regard of the United States, which leads the coalition, for humanitarian values and its contempt for international law, the rules and principles of which were violated by the very formation of the coalition. This all comes as certain States continue to maintain silence in the face of such massacres, which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. Those States are turning a blind eye to the murder of thousands of civilians, the destruction of entire villages and the displacement of their inhabitants. They are kowtowing to the hostile wishes of the United States by taking part in this "coalition", which was established on the pretext of fighting terrorism but is only attacking civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

The silence being maintained by States and international organizations that claim to be concerned about civilian lives in the face of these crimes committed by the United States and its deceitful coalition lays bare the extent of those States' hypocrisy and the double standards that have become overt policies known to all the peoples of the world.

These repeated attacks complete the circle of aggression against the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity the Syrian Arab Republic. The targets and goals are consistent with repeated Israeli attacks, of which the most recent of which occurred yesterday evening, 29 November 2018, when "Israel" attacked the Kiswah area south of Damascus, providing yet further evidence that "Israel" is supporting armed terrorist groups and trying to prolong the crisis in Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns these repeated crimes and acts of aggression. It calls on the Security Council and the Member States of the United Nations to take immediate action to put an end to such acts, condemn them, and establish international responsibility with a view to stopping these repeated violations of international law. The Security Council must carry out its duty to maintain international peace and promote the rule of law at the international level.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.